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Joint Letter from Business Owners and Organizations to the FCC

September 26, 2007

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FILED/ACCEPTED

SEP 26 2007

EX PARTE

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

DOCKET FILE COPY ON HAND

The Honorable Kevin J. Martin, Chairman
The Honorable Michael J. Copps
The Honorable Jonathan S. Adelstein
The Honorable Deborah Taylor Tate
The Honorable Robert M. McDowell
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: In the Matter of Petitions of the Verizon Telephone Companies for Forbearance Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 160(c) in the Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Providence and Virginia Beach Metropolitan Statistical Areas, WC Docket No. 06-172

In the Matter of Petitions of Qwest Corporation for Forbearance Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 160(c) in the Denver, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Phoenix, and Seattle Metropolitan Statistical Areas, WC Docket No. 07-97

In the Matter of the Verizon Telephone Companies For Forbearance under 47 U.S.C. § 160(c) from Title II and *Computer Inquiry* Rules with Respect to Their Broadband Services, WC Docket No. 04-440

In the Matter of Qwest Petition for Forbearance under 47 U.S.C. § 160(c) from Title II and *Computer Inquiry* Rules with Respect to Broadband Services, WC Docket No. 06-125

In the Matter of AT&T Inc. for Forbearance under 47 U.S.C. § 160(c) from Title II and *Computer Inquiry* Rules with Respect to Broadband Services, WC Docket No. 06-125

In the Matter of Petition of BellSouth for Forbearance under 47 U.S.C. § 160(c) from Title II and *Computer Inquiry* Rules with Respect to Its Broadband Services; WC Docket No. 06-125

In the Matter of Petition of the Embarq Local Exchange Companies for Forbearance Under 47 U.S.C. § 160(c) from Application of *Computer Inquiry* and Certain Title II Common-Carriage Requirements, WC Docket No. 06-147

In the Matter of Petition of the Frontier and Citizens ILECs for Forbearance Under Section 47 U.S.C. § 160(c) from Title II and *Computer Inquiry* Rules with Respect to Their Broadband Services, WC Docket No. 06-147

Dear Mr. Chairman and Commissioners:

We represent thousands of small business employers, managers and heads of local organizations that support competition for phone services. Many of us have chosen to do business with a smaller phone carrier because of the personalized service, attention, and competitive rates that smaller phone companies are providing to us.

[REDACTED]

We are very concerned that pending decisions by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on the "forbearance" petitions could jeopardize our access to that competition and eliminate the choices among phone service providers now available to us in our local market.

Competition among phone companies has been extremely valuable to companies and organizations like ours. Competitive phone companies have ensured that we have access to the same kinds of services previously only available to much larger businesses, and at rates previously unavailable to businesses our size.

These competitive phone companies provide jobs here in our community as well. These jobs are everything from sales professional to customer service to telecom technician – but most important of all, they are jobs in our markets.

Phone service is essential to our businesses and organizations. When there are phone problems, the quick, personal service our competitive phone company provides us is critical to our business. Monopoly service providers have proven over time that they simply cannot provide the level and quality of customer service that we need and that the smaller, competitive phone companies provide our businesses on demand, when we need it.

If the FCC does not deny or dismiss the "forbearance" petitions, our choices among competitive phone service providers will be eliminated, the rates we pay for phone service will go up, and jobs will be lost.

Please do not allow that to happen. Please dismiss or deny the pending forbearance petitions.



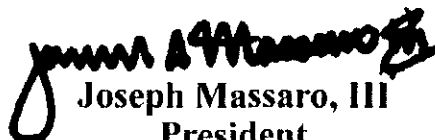
Gary Smith
Executive Director
Independent Business
Association
Redmond, WA
3,100 small business owners



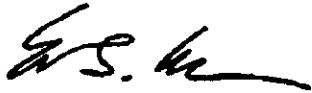
Cassandra de la Rosa
Executive Director
Retired Public Employees
Council of Washington
Olympia, WA
9,000 Members



Skip Gosnell
Director, IT
Keating Building Corporation
Philadelphia, PA
300 employees



Joseph Massaro, III
President
Massaro Corporation
Pittsburgh, PA
280 employees



Eric S. Lauer
Controller
Nielsen Brothers & Sons, Inc.
Seattle, WA
45 employees



Darren Jones
President
Agrishop, Inc.
Auburn, WA
60 employees



Erik Wiitala
Owner
Farmers Insurance
Seattle, WA



Arne B. Walker
General Manager
Cost Plus Prescriptions, Inc.
Tacoma, WA
17 employees



Marvin Wayne Brooks
President
1st University Mortgage Corp.
University Place, WA
4 employees



Art Matni
Owner
A & A Printing
Seattle, WA
25 employees



Elizabeth A. Paulsen

Elizabeth Paulsen
President
Cascade e-Commerce
Solutions, Inc.
Seatac, WA
5 employees

J. Aaron Booker

John Aaron Booker
President
Hardlines Company
Bellingham, WA
4 employees

Heidi Morgan

Heidi Morgan
Manager
Morpac Industries, Inc.
Pacific, WA
40 employees

Thomas C. Rasmussen

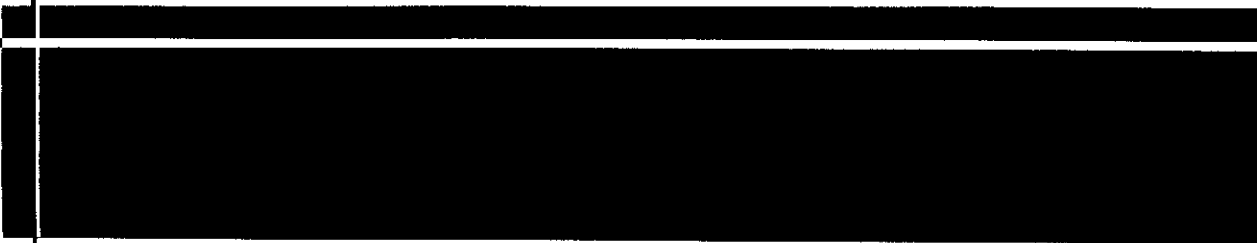
Thomas C. Rasmussen
President
Panorama Traffic Corporation
Kent, WA
1 employee


Chander Kapil


Chander Kapil
Owner
RS Market
Everett, WA


Rich Thomas


Rich Thomas
Vice President of Finance
Sleep Country USA
Kent, WA
300 employees






Terry Stone
President
United Auto Electric, Inc.
Bellingham, WA
12 employees

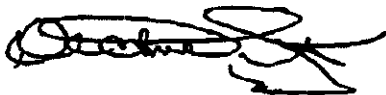

Eva Thisner
President
Pacific Project Management, Inc.
Mercer Island, WA


F.W. Goetz
VP
Nelson Trucking Co.
Seattle, WA
85 employees


Joe R. Taylor
President
MicroAccounting Systems, Inc.
Bellevue, WA
16 employees


Roy E. Slaybaugh
Everson Asphalt Paving
Lacey, WA
10 employees


Denis R. Holmes
Owner
Denis R. Holmes, OD
Bellingham, WA
3 employees



Victoria Gillis
Owner/Manager
A Select Event
Smokey Pt., WA



Dana Mongillo
Owner/Manager
Fuzzy Buddy's
Seattle, WA
5 employees



Mark Scarff
President/General Manager
Bowen Scarff Ford
Kent, WA
150 employees



Nancy Steelman
Office Manager
Jack Hornor Electric, Inc.
Yakima, WA
50 employees



Tony Beahan
CFO
Herrenknecht Tunnelling
Systems Inc.
Auburn, WA
22 employees



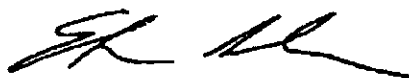
Mary T. Guthmiller
Vice President
Transtech Electric, Inc.
Kent, WA
50 employees



K. Stewart
Office Manager
Stewarts Marine Engine &
Machine Works, Inc.
Seattle, WA
6 employees



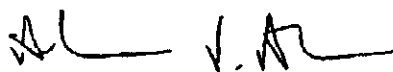
Alan Baron
General Manager
Quality Inn Baron Suites
Bellingham, WA
25 employees



Glyn Desmond
President
Monroe Therapeutic Massage
Monroe, WA
60 employees



Peggy Cupples
Owner
Fab Tek
Union Gap, WA
5 employees



Vicki Adams
President
Sound Bikes & Kayaks
Port Angeles, WA
25,000 customers



Ken Rogers
President
Summit USA
Kelso, WA
11 employees




Daniel Ripley
Owner
Dan Ripley Financial
Bellingham, WA
2 employees



Sarah Lloyd
Vice President
Admiral of the Fleet Cruise
Center
Redmond, WA
10 employees



Lee Dumas
Branch Manager
First Star Financial Corporation
Lynnwood, WA
10 employees



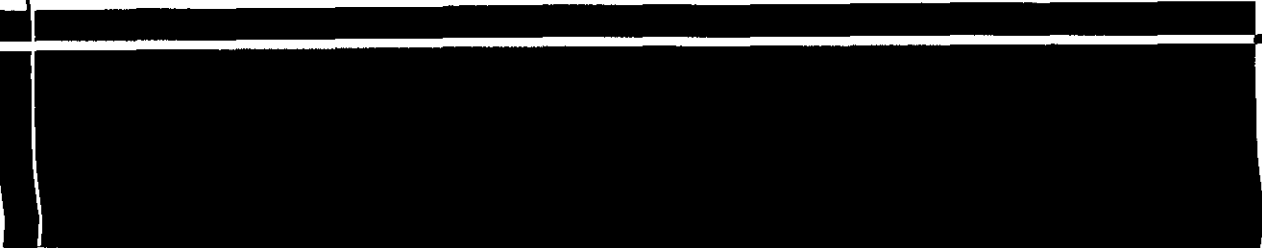

Bill Gummells
Newcastle Flooring
Auburn, WA
12 employees



Dave Stone
President
Pacific Gem, Inc.
Seattle, WA




Wendy Kruger
Secretary Treasurer
Precision Welder & Engine
Repair
Seattle, WA
6 employees

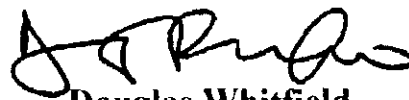
Shirley Oberg
President
SOS Data Services
Woodinville, WA
35 employees




Betty Neighbors
President
Terra Staffing Group
Everett, WA
950 employees




Wendell Maras
President
Wheelchairs Northwest
Bellevue, WA
22 employees



Douglas Whitfield
President
Pangaea Wine Group
Seattle, WA
7 employees



Edwin R. Levesque
Owner
Midland Auto Wrecking
Tacoma, WA
9 employees



Cheryl Dickson
Assistant General Manager
Daystar Retirement Village
Seattle, WA
50 employees



Alex Jo
President
Bum Corp
Federal Way, WA
35 employees



Steve Kirk
Operations Manager
BB Lumber & Hardware
Bellingham, WA
16 employees



William Rutherford
President
Computer Concepts
Bothell, WA



Ed McConkey
CEO
J.M. McConkey & Co., Inc.
Sumner, WA
120 employees



Bill Allister
Director of Information
Technology
Northwest Restaurants, Inc.
Woodinville, WA



Scott Sheffield
Managing Partner
Sovereign Wealth Advisors
Bellevue, WA
11 employees




Stephen Bader
COO
Tacoma Radiation Oncology
Center
Tacoma, WA
60 employees



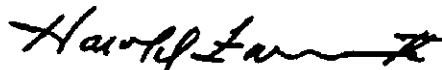
Blair Anderson
Treasurer
Coalition for Quality
Communities
Everett, WA
10 employees



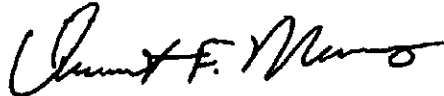
David Yorkston
Vice President
Yorkston Oil Co., Inc.
Bellingham, WA
55 employees



Colin Ury
Vice President Business Affairs
Taco Time Restaurants
Renton, WA
700 employees



Harold Farnsworth
CEO
Rhem, LLC dba EJ Bartells
Renton, WA
400 employees



Vincent F. Murray
President
VF Murray Enterprise, Inc.
Virginia Beach, VA
3 employees



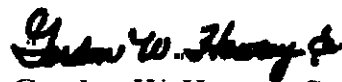
Joseph Ivato
President/Owner
Splitenz, Inc.
Virginia Beach, VA
13 employees



Martin Joseph
CEO/President
Tomar Computer Integration, Inc.
Virginia Beach, VA
14 employees



Pamela G. Potocska
Executive Assistant
Nicholas L. Potocska, CPA, P.C.
Virginia Beach, VA
14 employees



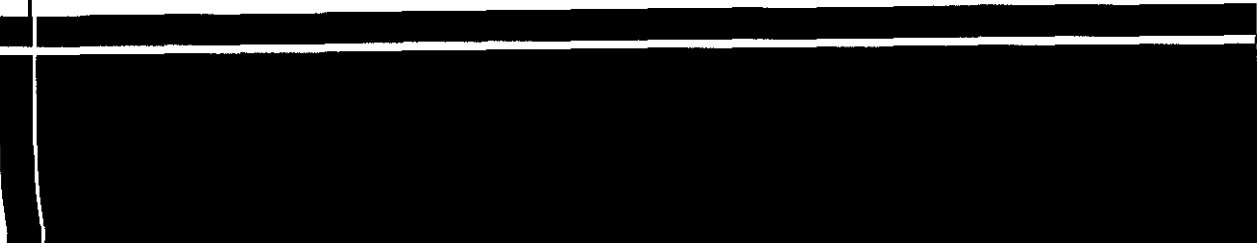
Gordon W. Howrey Sr.
Owner
American Termite & Pest
Control Inc.
Virginia Beach, VA
10 employees





David S. Gretz
President
Gretz & Associates, Inc.
Virginia Beach, VA





Debbie Paige
Office Manager, CFO
Sam Segar & Associates, Inc.
Virginia Beach, VA
6 employees

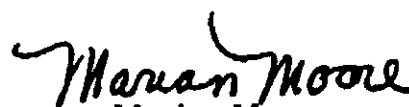




Walter Bordeaux
Owner
Bordeaux & Associates
Virginia Beach, VA
400 people served


P. Harris
Owner
Frame-Up Custom Frame &
Art Gallery
Virginia Beach, VA
4 employees


Ross Forster
President
Peter Kwick Printing
Virginia Beach, VA
9 employees


Tony Canino
President
Atlantic Coast
Communications, Inc.
Virginia Beach, VA
3 employees


Marian Moore
Office Manager
Built In Systems
Virginia Beach, VA
5 employees


Matthew Lundgren
Treasurer
Shoreline Contractors, Inc.
Virginia Beach, VA
12 employees



Richard Miller
Owner
Cleveland St. Bingo
Virginia Beach, VA
1000 people served



Sammy C. Reagan
President
Infiniti of Omaha
Omaha, NE
30 employees



James Murray
General Manager
Rocky of Omaha
(Dairy Queen/Orange Julius)
Omaha, NE
10 employees



Denise Knowles
Operations Manager
21st Century Financial
Group, Inc.
Omaha, NE
20 employees



Gary Moran
President
Lighting World, Inc.
Omaha, NE



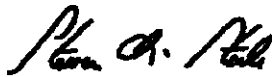
Tim Brown
President
Bell Creek, Inc.
Arlington, NE
5 employees



Dave Truckenbrod
President
Merchants Credit Adjusters
Omaha, NE
30 employees



Dan King
Manager Member
Boulder Outlook Hotel
Boulder, CO
50 employees & 200,000 guests



Steve Steele
Director of Operations
Keesen Enterprises, Inc.
Englewood, CO
240 employees



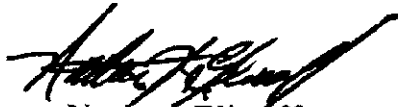
Larry Herz
Owner
Bonnie Brae Bistro LLC
Denver, CO
30 employees



Andy Stemple
President
Animal Crackers
Denver, CO
9 employees



Julie Young
Vice President
Omega Software Design, Inc.
Golden, CO
20 employees



Nathan Elinoff
President
Funtastic Fun
Englewood, CO
25 employees



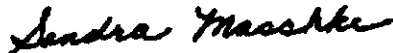
Rory Clawson
CFO
Party Time Rental, Inc.
Denver, CO
40 employees



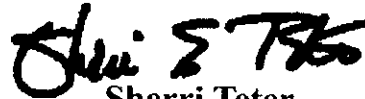
Colin McClure
President
Impact Medical Staffing
Denver, CO
80 employees



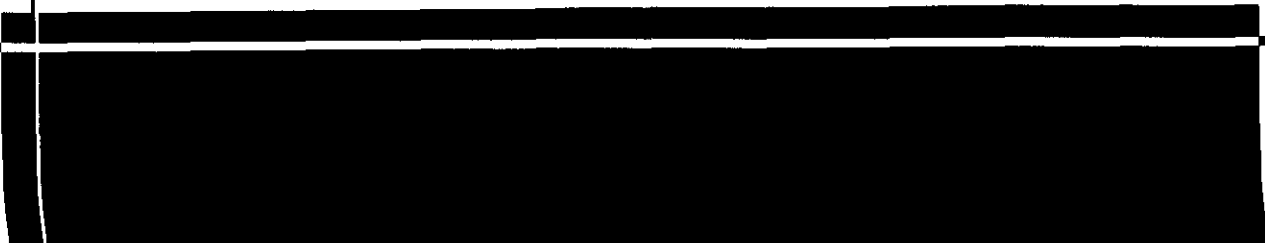
Dennis Baker
Treasurer
Colorado Powersports, Inc.
Boulder, CO
45 employees



Sandra Maschke
Office Manager
Octopus Car Wash
Lakewood, CO
60 employees



Sherri Teter
Manager/Owner
Washington Park Travel
Denver, CO
4 employees



Allyson Stauffer

Allyson Stauffer
Administrative Assistant
Posture Advanced Chiropractic
Lafayette, CO
2 employees & 400 clients

Cindy R. Pullen

Cindy R. Pullen
Owner
Creative Markings, LLC
Boulder, CO
600-1000 people served

Roger L. Carlson

Roger L. Carlson
Manager
Trevino Mortuary
Denver, CO
8 employees

David J. Wein

David J. Wein
President
Mutual Security Mortgage
Boulder, CO
8 employees

Byron Fenton

Byron Fenton
President
Engineered Products Co.
Lakewood, CO
12 employees

Jennifer Lawson

Jennifer Lawson
General Manager
Rocky Mountain Overseas, Inc.
Lakewood, CO
15 employees



Larry May
President
Parker Spirits & Wines, Inc.
Parker, CO
25 employees



David Foster
Owner
Aardvark Box & Packaging Co.
Denver, CO
5 employees



John D. Javorek
President
Fuji Motors, Inc.
Boulder, CO
5 employees



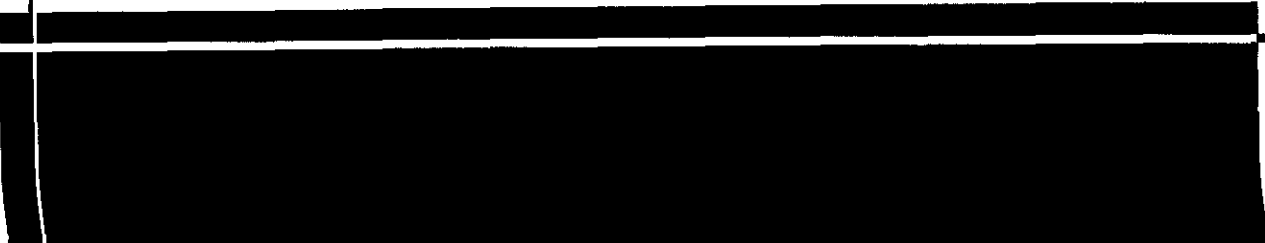
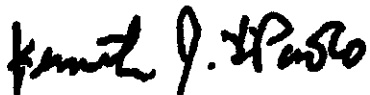
Harry Deol
General Manager
Village Green Liquors
Aurora, CO
6 employees



Dwight Nelson
Manager
Lehrer's Printing &
Office Supplies
Denver, CO
8 employees



Keith Treseder
President
Lakewood Alignment
Lakewood, CO
5 employees

Kenneth DiPaolo
President
Hydrosystems KDI, Inc.
Lakewood, CO
10 employees



Paul Larson
Owner
Anytime Fitness
Longmont, CO
600 members



Robert W. Abbott
Vice President/General Manager
Preferred Paper Products, Inc.
Boulder, CO
28 employees



George Hearne
Project Manager
Total Welding, Inc.
Littleton, CO
40 employees



Jeffrey Rader
IT Director
Central Parking Systems
New York, NY
200 employees



Clive Green
CEO
Safe Art Sat
Long Island City, NY
35 employees



Andres Jimenez, Jr.
Facilities Coordinator
Cain Brothers & Company, LLC
New York, NY
86 employees



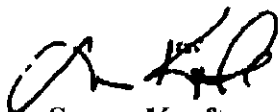
Denise Cherry
President
D. Cherry Real Estate Associates
Brooklyn, NY
5 employees



Sam Vincent Berdecia
Graphic Designer
BerDesign
Brooklyn, NY
6 employees



Ron Casey
President
Capricorn's Wholesale Food
Carmel, NY
5 employees



Susan Kraft
Creative Flooring Ltd.
Mt. Kisco, NY
6 employees



Stephen Gerbino
Owner
Innovative Computer Systems
Hackensack, NJ
10 employees



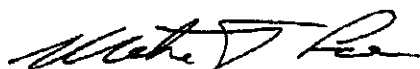

Sam Milliken
President
Mansions Catering, Inc.
New York, NY
30 employees



Larry Kayton
Project Manager
Vermeer Sales Southwest
Chandler, AZ
70 employees



David H. Richardson
Vice President of Finance &
Administration
Planned Parenthood of
Central & Northern Arizona
Phoenix, AZ
165 employees & 60,000 patients



Mike Lee
Regional Manager
ACE Uniforms of Phoenix
Phoenix, AZ
15 employees




Cressa Nelson
President
Orion Press
Phoenix, AZ
22 employees

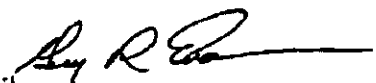



David C. Pennebaker
Chiropractor
Pennebaker Chiropractic
Phoenix, AZ



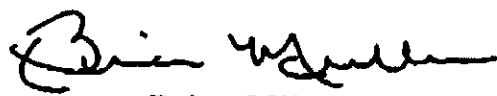

Lucy Piano
Accounts Manager
ProResponse, Inc.
Mesa, AZ
30 employees


Stephen Adams
Owner/President
Alphagraphics
Mesa, AZ
35 employees


Guy L. Erickson
President
GDE Constructions, Inc.
DBA Sun Valley Pools & Spas
Glendale, AZ


Ron C. Wilson
Owner/President
Las Sendas Spine Institute
Mesa, AZ
5 employees


Catherine Ries
CEO
B & B Blinds and Builder
Services, LLC
Gilbert, AZ
9 employees

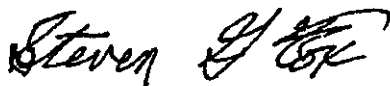

Brian Miller
Administrator
Arizona Senior Homes
Mesa, AZ




Kerry D. Soat
CEO
FAS-BREAK, Inc.
Mesa, AZ
4 employees



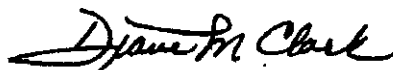
Eric Brown
President
Artisan Homes, Inc.
Phoenix, AZ
4 employees



Steven G. Fox
President
Steven G. Fox, Ph.D.
Mesa, AZ



Jay Gordon
Broker
Gordon Realty Services, Inc.
Tempe, AZ
5 employees



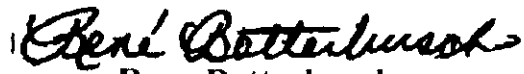
Diane M. Clark
President
Clark Power Products, Inc.
Scottsdale, AZ
8 employees



Fred Lozoya
President/Owner
Consumer Quality Air, Inc.
Phoenix, AZ
10 employees



Pamela Allara
Owner
The \$99 Furniture Store
Mesa, AZ
15 employees



Rene Botterbusch
Business Manager
Dave's Tire & Auto Corral
Glendale, AZ
10 employees



James Todd
President
Todd Photographic Services
Phoenix, AZ



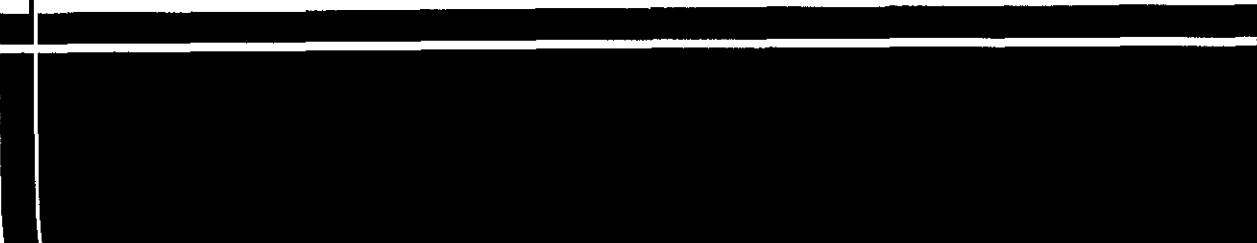
David Watson
Vice President
Southwest Shield Services
Phoenix, AZ
20 employees



Kristine Jacobs
Executive Director
Jobs Now Coalition
St. Paul, MN
100 members



Randy Zarecki
Owner
Fitness Dividends, LLC
St. Paul, MN
200 employees



Kimberly M. Dalbec

Kimberly M. Dalbec
Treasurer
Forest Lake Motor Sports, Inc.
Forest Lake, MN
20 employees

Richard Houck

Richard Houck
President
Houck Machine Company
Plymouth, MN
25 employees

James H. Ryan

James Ryan
Principal
Interactive Retirement Systems
Bloomington, MN
17 employees

Craig K.

Craig Kreibich
Owner
K Sales
Golden Valley, MN

Gary Denardo

Gary Denardo
President
Star Equipment, Inc.
Blaine, MN

Jane K. Bygness

Jane K. Bygness
President
Apple Personnel, Inc.
Edina, MN
3 employees